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Exploration of the Differences in EEG Pattern - Subjective State Correlates in Smoker and Non-smoker Subjects.

Analysis of data accumulated in the past two years strongly suggests that central information processing not only differs radically between cigarette smokers and non-smokers, but that these two populations differ in their modes of both active perception and recall, and suggests further that these tendencies are genetic in origin.

In this year's work, physiologic recording is being expanded to include EEG activity from bitemporal and precentral electrode placements as well as from conventional bilateral arrays, and to record both horizontal and lateral eye movements. The EEG additions are for study of differential activity between alpha and kappa rhythms and study of wave propagation times to document differences in central information processing activity. Recording as much eye movement activity as possible has been found helpful in documenting preferred modes of perception and of recall. Documenting the EEG and eye movement indicators of these mental functions assists in further differentiation between the subject groups. Additional characteristics of mental function will be documented by recording the extra scalp sites and eye movements during performance of various types of mental activity (visual, auditory and tactile perception and recall, both with eyes open and with eyes closed, and during mental tasks and cognitive functioning).

Although current information concerning the smoking habit and the CNS mechanisms involved appear quite chaotic, our past study of EEG patterns has resulted in a fairly solid foundation for these continuing studies.

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